

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 18411 01 OF 02 221409Z

41

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03

DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 /133 W

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R 221352Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9463

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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PAGE 02 BONN 18411 01 OF 02 221409Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18411

PASS COMMERCE AND LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XGILO

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING
AT JANUARY 74 EUROPEAN ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

REF: INR INTELLIGENCE NOTE SEP 5, 1973; GENEVA 6334;
LONDON 14870

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE LATEST MOVE BY EUROPEAN UNIONS TO PREPARE FOR THE EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING AT THE JANUARY ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE WAS, ACCORDING TO DGB SOURCES, THE DECISION TO REQUEST THAT ALBERT HEYER IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE ICFTU GENEVA OFFICE, RATHER THAN AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ILO WORKERS GROUP, SEND INVITATIONS TO ALL EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE IN GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. THIS MOVE WAS THE CULMINATION OF COMPLEX MANEUVERING BY ICFTU AND WFTU AFFILIATES TO SET THE STAGE FOR THIS ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREEMENT ON THE AGENDA OR THE TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR THE MEETING AND THE ISSUE OF FRENCH CGT AND ITALIAN CGIL PARTICIPATION IS ALSO UNRESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE RECENTLY GATHERED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FRIENDLY GERMAN SOURCES ON THE COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL MANEUVERING WHICH FOLLOWED THE EAST-WEST LABOR LEADERS CONFERENCE WHICH TOOK PLACE IN JULY IN VIENNA.

2. APPARENTLY IN MID-OCTOBER, THE WFTU PROPOSED TO THE WESTERN TRADE UNION LEADERS, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE VIENNA MEETING, THREE ALTERNATIVES FOR A PREPARATORY MEETING TO PLAN THE DETAILS OF THE JANUARY EAST-WEST MEETING OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS AT THE ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. THESE ALTERNATIVES WERE: (A) TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING OF THE SIX TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE VIENNA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 18411 01 OF 02 221409Z

MEETING. THESE LEADERS ARE VICTOR FEATHER OF THE BRITISH TUC HEINZ OSKAR VETTER OF THE WEST GERMAN DGB, ARNE GEIJER OF THE SWEDISH LO, ALEXANDER SHELEPIN OF THE SOVIET AUCCTU, SANDOR GASPOR OF THE HUNGARIAN TRADE UNIONS, AND WOLFGANG BEYREUTHER OF THE EAST GERMAN FDGB; (B) TO HAVE A "BIG TWO" MEETING OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE EAST EUROPEAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WEST EUROPEAN ETUC UNIONS; OR

(C) TO AGREE WITH THE DGB PROPOSAL TO HAVE A PREPARATORY MEETING WITH ARNE GEIJER OF THE LO IN SWEDEN AND ALAN HARGREAVES OF THE TUC IN GREAT BRITAIN.

3. THE DGB CONSULTED ON THE LATTER PROPOSAL WITH TWO OTHER WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS, SWEDISH LO LEADER ARNE GEIJER AND BRITISH TUC REPRESENTATIVE ALAN HARGREAVES.

4. GEIJER QUESTIONED THE NECESSITY OF SUCH A MEETING AND SUPPORTED INSTEAD A NORDIC TRADE UNION CONFERENCE PROPOSAL TO ASK THE EUROPEAN WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY (G. MUHR, FRG; C. PLANT, GREAT BRITAIN; O. SUNDE, NORWAY; AND P. PIMENOV, USSR) TO INVITE ICFTU EUROPEAN AFFILIATES AND WARSAW PACT WFTU AFFILIATES. GEIJER ALLEGEDLY INDICATED THE SCANDINAVIAN TRADE UNIONS HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THE

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PAGE 01 BONN 18411 02 OF 02 221416Z

41

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PAGE 02 BONN 18411 02 OF 02 221416Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18411

SOVIET AUCCTU LEADER A. SHELEPIN HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS SOLUTION. GEIJER ALSO INDICATED HE WOULD BE WILLING, IF NECESSARY, TO PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER MEETING OF THE SIX TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO MET IN VIENNA ON JULY 28.

5. HARGREAVES SAID THAT VICTOR FEATHER COULD NO LONGER REPRESENT THE BRITISH TUC AND THAT LEN MURRAY, THE NEWLY ELECTED TUC LEADER, WOULD HAVE TO REPRESENT THE TUC IN ANY FUTURE MEETINGS. HE SUGGESTED A TWO OR THREE-HOUR MEETING WITHOUT ANY PUBLICITY IF A PRELIMINARY MEETING WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. HE ADVISED THAT THE TUC OPPOSED A MEETING OF THE FOUR EUROPEAN WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AND WAS ALSO AGAINST THE ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN'S PROPOSAL TO ASK J. MORRIS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ILO WORKERS GROUP, TO SEND OUT THE INVITATIONS FOR THIS MEETING. HIS REASON WAS THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE A NORTH AMERICAN IN A STRICTLY EUROPEAN AFFAIR. HARGREAVES REPORTEDLY FAVORED HAVING THE SIX LEADERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE VIENNA EAST/WEST CONFERENCE SEND OUT INVITATIONS FOR THE JANUARY MEETING INDIVIDUALLY IN SEPARATE LETTERS.

6. FOLLOWING THESE CONSULTATIONS, THE DGB ALLEGEDLY

CONCLUDED THAT A SECOND MEETING OF THE SIX TRADE UNION LEADERS, WHO MET IN VIENNA, WAS NOT POSSIBLE. A FURTHER MEETING OF THESE SIX LEADERS WOULD CONFUSE THE SITUATION UNNECESSARILY. FURTHER, MURRAY WAS INEXPERIENCED AND HIS INTERNATIONAL VIEWS WERE LARGELY UNKNOWN EVEN TO SOME TUC LEADERS. SO THIS RAISED THE SPECTER OF HIS FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BRITISH UNION LEADER JACK JONES WHO HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING ANTI-EC AND PRO-COMMUNIST.

7. THE PROPOSAL OF SANDOR GASPAR FROM HUNGARY TO HAVE A BIG TWO MEETING WITH ONE LEADER FROM EACH SIDE ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 18411 02 OF 02 221416Z

CREATED DIFFICULTIES. AT THE FIRST VIENNA MEETING, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO CLAIM THAT THIS WAS ONLY A MEETING OF INDIVIDUAL EAST AND WEST TRADE UNION LEADERS. HOWEVER, AFTER THE REACTIONS TO THIS MEETING, ANY FUTURE MEETING WOULD REQUIRE REPORTS TO THE ICFTU AND TRADE UNIONS AND INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNION EXECUTIVE BOARDS FOR APPROVAL OF ANY PROPOSAL AGREED TO AT SUCH A MEETING. THUS THE PROPOSALS FOR THE EAST-WEST MEETING IN JANUARY ARE TOO FAR ADVANCED TO PERMIT FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE VARIOUS TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS. SHOULD A SMALL MEETING BE HELD, THE INITIATORS OF SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE MEETING. THEREFORE, SOME QUARTERS OF THE DGB FAVORED TRYING TO LOWER THE LEVEL OF CONTACTS FOR PREPARATIONS OF THE MEETING TO TECHNICIANS FROM BOTH SIDES.

8. AFTER THIS ANALYSIS, THE DGB DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE NORDIC PROPOSAL AND TO DISCUSS THE INVITATIONS AT THE NOVEMBER ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING. IF IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE FOUR EUROPEAN WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY TO SEND OUT THE INVITATIONS, THEN SOME FORM OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL SHOULD BE ADOPTED. AS A FINAL ALTERNATIVE, IF THE ABOVE TWO ALTERNATIVES WERE NOT FEASIBLE, INDIVIDUAL LEADERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE VIENNA CONFERENCE, COULD INVITE ICFTU AFFILIATES AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. THE QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FRENCH CGT AND THE ITALIAN CGIL WAS LEFT OPEN.

9. APPARENTLY, THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF WHO WOULD SEND OUT THE INVITATIONS FOR THE PLANNED JANUARY EAST-WEST MEETING WAS SOLVED BY ARRANGING FOR THE ICFTU GENEVA REPRESENTATIVE, ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ILO WORKERS GROUP, TO INVITE PARTICIPANTS TO THIS MEETING.
HILLENBRAND

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